

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
1. A system for accepting and storing items for subsequent pickup by a commercial carrier, comprising:	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4)
an outer housing;	"102 sheet-metal housing" (Page 5, Line 35; Figure 1)
means for weighing an item which a customer may intend to ship;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
means for inputting information relating to the destination of the item from customer;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for calculating charges comprising a shipment fee for the item, said control means being in communication with said weighing means and said information inputting means;	"The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, lines 16-18); "Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); Figures 12a-12b.

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means in communication with said control means for accepting identification information relating to eventual payment from the customer, said means in communication with said control means comprising means for receiving and reading a credit card and means for communicating the charges to a central location for billing the charges to said customer;	<p>"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably though the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)</p> <p>122 is a magnetic card reader, (page 6, line 10; figure 12b – labeled as "McKey <u>Credit Card Reader</u>")</p> <p>see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.</p>
a storage area defined by said outer housing comprising secure deposit means for permitting a customer to securely deposit the item into the storage area, said secure deposit means including a first zone which serves as a holding space and a secure zone into which the item is moved for secure storage.	134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33); as evident from figures 1 and 5, the storage area is "defined by said outer housing" (102). As illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 5, the package is first placed into a "first zone" through the package window 106 and placed on, for example, a tilting package scale assembly 140 ("the package window door 106 opens, a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400") (page 11, lines 14-16); once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package from the above described first zone to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).

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2. The system of claim 1 wherein said system includes means for supplying voice instructions for operation of said system.	<p>"1260 voice digitizer (e.g., Covox Inc. Eugene Oregon - Voicemaster Digitizer System 2; software version 2.04/2.04x)" (Page 9, Lines 7-8)</p> <p>"Touching the screen activates a voice system which instructs the operator through a loudspeaker 112 what the next step will be. By following the voice instruction and the printed instructions on the screen 110, the customer is led step by step thorough the processing of a package or a letter." (Page 10, Lines 24-27)</p> <p>"The customer may select after inserting his prepaid magnetic card to process packages by touching the screen 110 and following the voice instructions." (Page 11, Lines 13-14)</p>
4. The system of claim 1 wherein said outer housing includes means for measuring the item size and inputting such size into said control means for use in calculating the shipping charge.	<p>"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package; the measurement is performed automatically for packages whose dimensions fall within specified limits." (Page 1, Lines 24-26)</p> <p>"226 PV board assembly for letter justification and length measurement 227 electro-optical sensors for letter justification and length measurement" (Page 7, Lines 10-11)</p>
5. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding items for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services, said automated unit comprising:	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)
means for weighing the item to be shipped;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)

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means for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped; and	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating a fee for shipment of the item; said control means further including means for receiving credit card information and means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to the account of the person owning the credit card, said means for communicating the shipment fee comprising telephone lines;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zipcode." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b)  "The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably though the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

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means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service;	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33).</p>
means for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secured storage means.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs an appropriate instruction at the "end of the day, a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p> <p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment." Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
6. The integrated, automated, unattended unit of claim 5 including means for printing a hard copy of a manifest.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs appropriate instruction at the end of the day, a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28); as illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device.</p>
8. The integrated, automated, unattended unit of claim 5 wherein said means for receiving said credit card information comprises a magnetic card reader.	<p>Magnetic card reader 122 (see, e.g., Figure 12b – 122 labeled as "McKey Credit Card Reader")</p>
10. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding items for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services; said automated unit comprising,	<p>"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)</p>

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means for weighing the item to be shipped;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
means for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating a fee for shipment of the item; said control means further including means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to an account of a person, said means for communicating the shipment fee comprising telephone lines;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zipcode." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b)  "The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handing such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201 which is connected to bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

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means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service;	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33)</p>
means for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secure storage means, said information storage means including means for transmitting a manifest to a remote location.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs and appropriate instruction at the "end of the day," a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p> <p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment"). Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>"When a machine operator (e.g., a convenience store clerk) inputs and appropriate instruction at the end of the day, a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28)</p> <p>The disclosed the system and device is physically configured to permit such remote communication of the manifest see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - the computer 1201 is connected to the bus 1200, which is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
13. A system for accepting and storing items for subsequent pickup by a commercial carrier, comprising:	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4)

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means for weighing an item which a customer may intend to ship;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
means for inputting information relating to the destination of the item from customer;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for calculating charges comprising a shipment fee for the item, said control means being in communication with said weighing means and said information inputting means;	"The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b); "Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); Figures 12a-12b.
means in communication with said control means for accepting identification information relating to eventual payment from the customer, and for communicating the charges to a central location for billing the charges to said customer;	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handing such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  122 is a magnetic card reader, (page 6, line 10; figure 12b – labeled as "McKey <u>Credit</u> Card Reader")  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

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a storage area comprising secure deposit means for permitting a customer to securely deposit the item into the storage area, said secure deposit means including a first zone which serves as a holding space and a secure zone into which the item is moved for secure storage and means for conveying said item from said holding space to said storage area.	<p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33). As illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 5, the package is first placed into a "first zone" through the package window 106 and placed on, for example, a tilting package scale assembly 140 ("the package window door 106 opens, a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400") (page 11, lines 14-16); once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package from the above described first zone to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).</p> <p>Once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).</p>
14. A system for accepting and storing items for subsequent pickup by a commercial carrier, comprising:	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4)
means for weighing an item which a customer may intend to ship, said weighing means being supported by said system;	<p>"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)</p> <p>At evident from figures 2, 4 and 5, the weighing means (e.g., 228, 230, 400) are all mounted within the housing (102), and thus are physically "supported by the system." Moreover, as described, for example, at page 11, lines 16-18, "The scale weighs the package; weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." Thus, the weighing means is also operationally "supported by the system."</p>

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means for inputting information relating to the destination of the item from customer;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for calculating charges comprising a shipment fee for the item, said control means being in communication with said weighing means and said information inputting means;	"The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, lines 16-18); "Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); Figures 12a-12b.
means in communication with said control means for accepting identification information relating to eventual payment from the customer, and for communicating the charges to a central location for billing the charges to said customer;	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  122 is a magnetic card reader, (page 6, line 10; figure 12b – labeled as "McKey <u>Credit</u> Card Reader")  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

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a storage area comprising secure deposit means for permitting a customer to securely deposit the item into the storage area, said secure deposit means including a first zone which serves as holding space and a secure zone into which the item is moved for secure storage.	134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33). As illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 5, the package is first placed into a "first zone" through the package window 106 and placed on, for example, a tilting package scale assembly 140 ("the package window door 106 opens, a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400") (page 11, lines 14-16); once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package from the above described first zone to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).
16. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding item for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services; said automated unit comprising,	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)
means for weighing the item to be shipped;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)

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means for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating the fee for shipment of the item, said control means further including means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to an account of a person, said means for communicating and assessing comprising means for printing a hard copy of said shipment fee for said person;	<p>"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zipcode." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b)</p> <p>"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably though the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handing such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 26-36); "the cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer" (page 10, lines 35-36) (this limitation does not require a credit card account).</p> <p>"A printer in the machine prints a customer receipt." (Page 2 line 23); "the receipt is produced by the receipt printer 128. The cost of shipping the package is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 11, lines 23-25); "means for printing a customer receipt" (claim 1, subparagraph (e)).</p>

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Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service; and	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33)</p>
means for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secured storage means.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs and appropriate instruction at the "end of the day," a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p> <p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment." Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
19. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding items for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services; said automated unit comprising;	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touchscreen 110; the customer's responses on the touchscreen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touchscreen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating the fee for shipment of the item; said control means further including means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to an account of a person, said means for communicating the shipment fee comprising telephone lines;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zipcode." (Page 11, Lines 16-18)  "The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably though the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  See, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201 which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service;	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33)</p>
means for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secured storage means, said information storage means including means for transmitting information that may be used to prepare a manifest to a remote location.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs and appropriate instruction at the "end of the day," a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p>
20. A system for accepting and storing items for subsequent pickup by a commercial carrier, comprising:	<p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment"). Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>"When a machine operator (e.g., a convenience store clerk) inputs and appropriate instruction at the end of the day a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28)</p> <p>The disclosed the system and device is physically configured to permit such remote communication of the manifest see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - the computer 1201 is connected to bus 1200, which is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
	<p>"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4)</p>

**EXHIBIT A**

<b>Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927</b>	<b>Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)</b>
an outer housing;	"102 sheet-metal housing" (Page 5, Line 35; Figure 1)
means for weighing an item which a customer may intend to ship;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
a keyboard or touch screen for inputting information relating to the destination of the item from customer;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touch screen 110; the customer's responses on the touch screen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touch screen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for calculating charges comprising a shipment fee for the item, said control means being in communication with said weighing means and said keyboard or touch screen;	"The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, lines 16-18); "Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); Figures 12a-12b.

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means in communication with said control means for accepting identification information relating to eventual payment from the customer, said means in communication with said control means comprising means for receiving and reading a credit card, and telephone lines connected to the means for receiving and reading a credit card for communicating the charges to a central location for billing the charges to said customer;	<p>"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)</p> <p>122 is a magnetic card reader, (page 6, line 10; figure 12b – labeled as "McKey <u>Credit Card Reader</u>")</p> <p>see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.</p>
a storage area defined by said outer housing comprising secure deposit means for permitting a customer to securely deposit the item into the storage area, said secure deposit means including a first zone which serves as a holding space and a secure zone into which the item is moved for secure storage.	134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33); as evident from figures 1 and 5, the storage area is "defined by said outer housing" (102). As illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 5, the package is first placed into a "first zone" through the package window 106 and placed on, for example, a tilting package scale assembly 140 ("the package window door 106 opens, a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400") (page 11, lines 14-16); once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package from the above described first zone to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).
21. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding items for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services, said automated unit comprising:	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for weighing the item to be shipped;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
a keyboard or touch screen for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touch screen 110; the customer's responses on the touch screen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touch screen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating a fee for shipment of the item;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b).
means for receiving credit card information;	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36). See figure 12b; credit card reader 122.
means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to the account of the person owning the credit card comprising telephone lines;	see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service; and	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33).</p>
a memory for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secured storage means.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs an appropriate instruction at the "end of the day, a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p> <p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment." Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
22. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding items for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services; said automated unit comprising;	<p>"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)</p>

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for weighing the item to be shipped;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
a keyboard or touch screen for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touch screen 110; the customer's responses on the touch screen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touch screen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating a fee for shipment of the item;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b)
means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to an account of a person comprising telephone lines;	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201 which is connected to bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service; and	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33)</p>
a memory for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secure storage means, said information storage means including means for transmitting a manifest to a remote location.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs an appropriate instruction at the "end of the day, a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p> <p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment"). Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>"When a machine operator (e.g., a convenience store clerk) inputs an appropriate instruction at the end of the day, a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28)</p> <p>The disclosed system and device is physically configured to permit such remote communication of the manifest see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - the computer 1201 is connected to the bus 1200, which is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
23. A system for accepting and storing items for subsequent pickup by a commercial carrier, comprising:	<p>"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies."</p> <p>(Page 1, Lines 2-4)</p>

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
means for weighing an item which a customer may intend to ship;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)
a keyboard or touch screen for inputting information relating to the destination of the item from customer;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touch screen 110; the customer's responses on the touch screen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touch screen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for calculating charges comprising a shipment fee for the item, said control means being in communication with said weighing means and said keyboard or touch screen;	"The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b); "Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); Figures 12a-12b.
means in communication with said control means for accepting identification information relating to eventual payment from the customer and for communicating the charges to a central location for billing the charges to said customer; and	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  122 is a magnetic card reader, (page 6, line 10; figure 12b – labeled as "McKey <u>Credit Card Reader</u> ")  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/720,927	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
<p>a storage area comprising secure deposit means for permitting a customer to securely deposit the item into the storage area, said secure deposit means including a first zone which serves as a holding space and a secure zone into which the item is moved for secure storage and means for conveying said item from said holding space to said storage area.</p>	<p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33). As illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 5, the package is first placed into a "first zone" through the package window 106 and placed on, for example, a tilting package scale assembly 140 ("the package window door 106 opens, a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400") (page 11, lines 14-16); once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package from the above described first zone to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).</p> <p>Once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).</p>
24. A system for accepting and storing items for subsequent pickup by a commercial carrier, comprising:	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4)
means for weighing an item which a customer may intend to ship;	<p>"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)</p> <p>As evident from figures 2, 4 and 5, the weighing means (e.g., 228, 230, 400) are all mounted within the housing (102), and thus are physically "supported by the system." Moreover, as described, for example, at page 11, lines 16-18, "The scale weighs the package; weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." Thus, the weighing means is also operationally "supported by the system."</p>

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
a keyboard or touch screen for inputting information relating to the destination of the item from the customer;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touch screen 110; the customer's responses on the touch screen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touch screen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
control means for calculating charges comprising a shipment fee for the item, said control means being in communication with said weighing means and said keyboard or touch screen;	"The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, lines 16-18); "Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); Figures 12a-12b.
means in communication with said control means for accepting identification information relating to eventual payment from the customer, and for communicating the charges to a central location for billing the charges to said customer; and	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 31-36)  122 is a magnetic card reader, (page 6, line 10; figure 12b – labeled as "McKey <u>Credit</u> Card Reader")  see, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264.

**EXHIBIT A**

Claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. <b>08/720,927</b>	Exemplary Support Found in USSN 07/678,863 (filed 4/1/91)
a storage area comprising secure deposit means for permitting a customer to securely deposit the item into the storage area, said secure deposit means including a first zone which serves as holding space and a secure zone into which the item is moved for secure storage.	134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33). As illustrated in figures 1, 3 and 5, the package is first placed into a "first zone" through the package window 106 and placed on, for example, a tilting package scale assembly 140 ("the package window door 106 opens, a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400") (page 11, lines 14-16); once the customer has completed processing of the package, the package window door 106 is automatically closed (page 11, lines 22-23), and the automatic tilting assembly 400 transfers the package from the above described first zone to a second secure area or zone 410 (see figure 6).
25. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding item for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services; said automated unit comprising,	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)
means for weighing the item to be shipped;	"The machine measures the weight and other dimensions of the customer's package" (page 1, lines 24-25); 228 is a "letter scale," 230 is a "load cell for letter weighing," and 400 is a "load cell for package weighing" (page 7, lines 12, 13 and 16; figure 2; figures 4-5); "packages are weighed by using a 100 lb. load cell (strain gauge bridge)" (page 9, line 28); "a customer puts the package inside the window on the package/scale/tilt assembly 400. The scale weighs the package" (page 11, lines 16-17)

**EXHIBIT A**

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a keyboard or touch screen for inputting information relating to the destination to which the item is to be shipped;	"In operation, the machine conducts a dialog with a user/customer, via a touch screen and a digitized voice output (or other input/output devices), to obtain information about the customer's intended shipment address, class of service, and the like." (Page 1, Lines 15-18); 110 is a "touch-screen computer monitor" (page 6, line 2); "a series of screen displays is presented to a user/customer on the touch screen 110; the customer's responses on the touch screen 110 or other input device (e.g., a conventional computer keyboard) are used in controlling the machine's operations." (Page 10, lines 5-8); "Once all the information that relates to the shipper and destination is entered by the customer using the touch screen 110, a shipping label is printed using a package label printer 142." (Page 11, lines 18-20); "input means" (claim 1 subparagraph (c)); Figures 12b and 27-31.
means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating a fee for shipment of the item;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b)
means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to an account of a person comprising means for printing a hard copy of said shipment fee for said person;	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably though the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 26-36); "the cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer" (page 10, lines 35-36) (this limitation does not require a credit card account).  "A printer in the machine prints a customer receipt." (Page 2 line 23); "the receipt is produced by the receipt printer 128. The cost of shipping the package is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 11, lines 23-25); "means for printing a customer receipt" (claim 1, subparagraph (e)).

**EXHIBIT A**

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means for securely storing said item until the item is collected by said commercial delivery service; and	<p>"When the customer's transaction is complete, the labeled package is automatically received into a locked storage compartment in the machine." (Page 2, 17-18)</p> <p>"Once the customer has finished the processing, the package window door 108 is automatically closed." (Page 11, Lines 22-23)</p> <p>134 "letter tray" (Page 6, Line 18); 410 "package storage compartment" (Page 7, Line 23); "The letter handling system 200 moves the letter automatically through weighing, measuring, scanning and printing and finally depositing the letter into the removable letter tray where all processed letters are collected." (Page 10, Lines 31-33)</p>
a memory for storing the inputted information associated with said item disposed in said secured storage means.	<p>"a convenience store clerk inputs and appropriate instruction at the "end of the day," a hard-copy manifest of packages received by the machine is generated." (Page 2, lines 26-28);</p> <p>"once a letter is processed, a receipt is printed for any letter that is certified, registered and insured. The cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 10, lines 34-36);</p> <p>As illustrated, for example, in figure 26, a manifest may be generated from the information stored by the device (note the options for "print previous manifest" and "search for a shipment." Obviously, in order to retrieve such information it must have been stored by the system or device. See also, figures 18b, 19b, 20b, 21b, 23a-b, 24b, and 26.</p> <p>See figure 12a; elements 1208, 1210 and 1212. See figure 12b; computer 1201.</p>
26. An integrated, automated, unattended unit for collecting and securely holding item for collection and shipment by commercial delivery services; said automated unit comprising,	"The invention relates to automated self-service systems for receiving and initially processing letters and other packages for subsequent transportation by the U.S. Postal Service and/or private package shipment companies." (Page 1, Lines 2-4); and "an automated self-service <u>machine</u> in accordance with the invention advantageously combines features of mail room automation systems with features of bank automated teller machines." (Page 1, lines 11-13)

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control means for analyzing the inputted information and calculating a fee for shipment of the item;	"Using these measurements and the customer-provided information, the machine computes the postage or other shipping charge." (Page 1, Lines 26-27); "The scale weighs the package; this weight is transmitted to the computer which calculates the charges according to the destination zip code." (Page 11, Lines 16-18; 1201, Figure 12b)
means for communicating and assessing the shipment fee to an account of a person comprising means for printing a hard copy of said shipment fee for said person;	"The machine obtains payment from the customer, notably through the use of a prepaid, low-cost charge card which may be sold in convenient denominations at the machine's location (e.g., at a convenience store). A magnetic card reader for handling such cards may be connected through a conventional interface directly to, e.g., a convenience-store cash register. Alternatively, the customer may use a credit card to make payment." (Page 1, Lines 26-36); "the cost of mailing is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer" (page 10, lines 35-36) (this limitation does not require a credit card account).  "A printer in the machine prints a customer receipt." (Page 2 line 23); "the receipt is produced by the receipt printer 128. The cost of shipping the package is deducted from the prepaid magnetic card and the card is returned to the customer." (Page 11, lines 23-25); "means for printing a customer receipt" (claim 1, subparagraph (e)).

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means for transmitting the inputted information to a remote location.	See, e.g., figures 12b-12c - credit card reader 122 is connected to computer 1201, which is connected to the bus 1200, which in turn is connected to a modem 1262, which in turn is connected to the telephone line 1264. See also, figure 12a; separate memory devices 1208, 1210 and 1212 also connected to the bus 1200.